

Have You Paid Your Dues?

# Windemuth Newsletter

Janice Wintermute Snyder, Editor

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

MARCH, 2001

## 2001 Reunion in Branson, Missouri

The reunion is fast arriving. August 22, 23 and 24 are the dates, so get your duds ready, make your reservations and we will see you there.

Neal Wintermute called me around the 15th of January to ask some questions and brought me up short, so have started the arrangements once again.

Jesse and Joan Wintermute have been wonderful with their suggestions for the reunion. We will have a very nice time, thanks to them. One of the events we will have is a Barbecue on Friday evening, August 24th hosted by Jess and Joan at their home, just across the line into Arkansas. We are hoping for the biggest reunion yet.

We have received special rates for the events scheduled at The Wintermute Colonnade Motel and The Wintermute Dinner Bell Restaurant. The restaurant has a breakfast with entertainment.

There are many shows to see, lakes to explore, Silver Dollar City, an outdoor pageant "The Shepherd of the Hills" and many more. Branson is called the "Live Entertainment Capital of the World"

There are nice golf courses to make your choice from, so bring your clubs.



**Hilarious Comedy  
Presleys' County Jubilee!**

Branson USA Amusement Park will be a big hit for the young and old Windemuths.

Ride the Ducks while here and explore the lakes. This was a fun thing, Jim & I did when we visited there.

I am sure we will have a wonderful time while visiting this lovely city.

## Windemuth's by the dozen

Received a query from Raymond Burd, about the Pickle Family. I passed it on to Susan and Rebecca as they know more about the later families. They are descendants from Mary Margaret Wintermute, eldest daughter of the Emigrant, John George. In the De-

cember 1999 newsletter, there is a picture of the Pickle Homestead and an article by James W. Roberts, from Moody, AL. This Mr. Burd was a descendant from the Pickle family and wished information. He had found our family on the internet. We

are getting the families more complete due to the information sent to us by the persons making inquiry from their internet searches for ancestors. It is interesting being a detective and doing the searches,

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### Special points of interest:

- 2001 Reunion in Branson, Missouri
- Information to share about the reunion, registration forms
- Reservation of rooms
- Ozark Craftsmanship
- Internet use for sharing information for Genealogy
- Dues for year 2001 are \$10

# 2001 Windemuth Family Organization Registration Form

Please send this form to The Windemuth Family Organization President, Janice Wintermore Snyder, 431 W. North Street, Ajo, AZ. 85321-2154. If you have any questions, telephone (520) 387-5349. Deadline for reservations is June 22, 2001.

The only meal that will be on the reservation form will be a Breakfast on Friday, August 24, 2001

The price is a special price given to our group by Jess and Joann Wintermute .

Full name (including middle) and if female Maiden Name

(Please include spouse's name and Children's names and everyone who is attending the reunion even if not relatives for name tag purposes. )

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Area Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Registration \$25.00 per Family \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Breakfast \$10.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Children 12 and under Free

Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Windemuth Family Organization

Breakfast is a buffet with entertainment

## A Heritage of Ozark Craftsmanship

Much of the history of the Ozarks can be traced through the crafts of the local inhabitants. For generations, residents of the Ozark Mountains simply made what they needed to survive in the hills. This included quilts, pottery, baskets, glassware, wrought iron and more. Today, crafts are an integral part of the Branson/Lakes Area and are celebrated through festivals, events and everyday exhibitions.

At Silver Dollar City, visitors can watch as over 100 Ozark craftsmen perform the lost arts of spinning thread, glass blowing, pounding iron and carving wood. Each fall the National Festival of Craftsman showcases a variety of traditional crafts.

Old time crafts can also be seen at the Shepherd of the Hills Homestead where turn-of-the-century works are on display every day.

Branson is establishing itself as a home for many works of

fine art. These modern-day artisans are not only keeping traditions alive, but are creating a whole new school of Americana art.

Branson City Hall is home to Townsend Godsey's vintage photographs. Several murals depicting local scenes can be found at both the Branson Mercantile and Stone Hill Winery. At Ripley's Believe It or Not!, the American Highrise mural by local artist and entertainer, Richard D. Clark, took more than 10 years to complete, using well over 3,000 pens.

Two important works stand at the downtown Branson lake front area. Circle of the Waters by Lee Robertson and Legends of the Ozarks, by Tim Smith adorn the newly renovated public park. A third piece, Summer Rain, a sculpture and fountain by Lee



Craftsman

Robertson was recently placed as the centerpiece of the park.

The College of the Ozarks boasts both the Boger Gallery & Museum and the renowned Ralph Foster Museum. The Ralph Foster Museum is dedicated to the history of the Ozarks region, housing thousands of objects

representing archeology, history and mineralogy. The college also features Edwards Mill and the Friendship House Restaurant, and the famous fruit cake and jelly kitchen.

(Copied from publication from the Branson Chamber of Commerce)

When we are not visiting with our old and newly found cousins, we can take in the beautiful vistas and see the wonderful things described above.

*Today, crafts are an integral part of the Branson/Lakes Area and are Celebrated through festivals, events and every day exhibitions.*

## Windemuth Query

I received this e-mail from a Tina Keppler, which I passed on to Rebecca and Susan.



John George Windemuth headstone in Stillwater cemetery

I live in Stillwater, N.J. where some of your Wintermute family settled. I will be traveling to Germany in March and plan to do

some historical research while I am there. Can you tell me if anyone has done any research there from your family or what the extent of the research has been? I would like to try and link Petter Bernhardt with the Wintermutes and Shafer families while I am there. I also want to look for another individual, Valen-

tine Vogt who is in the cemetery and was also on the ship Harle with the Wintermutes.

I am attaching a photo of a Wintermute Stone which we highlighted with baking soda in order to read it more clearly.

I am sure this was answered with the link to the Bernhardt, which is in our Heritage book

# Reunion

I have included a registration form on page two. Please, as instructed, include full names. Name tags are made for the reunion and we need the full names in order to do the research on which emigrant your family descended from..

Each family will be responsible for making their own reservations at The Wintermute Colonnade Motel, 245 Jess Jo Parkway, Branson, Mo. 65616 telephone number 1-800-727-8344 or 417-336-6398. Be sure and ask for the Windemuth Family rates. (\$39.00

per night, two queen sized beds.) Make your reservations by June 22, 2001 to get the special rate.

If you are planning on using a campground, The Chastain's of Branson, 1-800-467-7611 or 1-417-334-4414, is about a mile from the motel.

Branson KOA is 1-800-562-4177 or 1-417-334-7450. Email: bransonkoa@aol.com.

City of Branson Campground, located on Lake Taneycomo, 1-417-334-2915.

e-mail: www.cityofbranson.org  
America's Best Campground,

1-800-671-4399 or 1-417-336-4399 Fax or e-mail: fun4uabc@aol.com

Branson Shenanigans RV Park 1-800-338-7275 or 1-417-335-4785 (fax) or email:

Bsrivpark@aol.com

Acorn Acres 1-800-338-2504  
www.acornacres@juno.com

If you want more call 1-800-214-3661 or email; www.bransonchamber.com and they will send bundles

At the General meeting we will ask each descendent to introduce themselves and

family and tell a little about your family, so come up with a yarn.

We had pictures taken in Colorado and hopefully I can get arrangements made to do so again, with Jess and Joan's help. I look back on those taken in Colorado and see people and it brings back memories of things we talked about and things we did together.

Hope this answers some of your questions.

## Reunion Schedule ( Tentative)

<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
Check in Time	Breakfast	Breakfast and Show	Check out time
3:00 p. m.	(continental in motel)	8:00 to 9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Registration:	Officers & Committee	Wintermute's Dinner Bell	Saying good bye
3:00 p.m. to 6: 00 p.m.	Meetings	Restaurant	To our new and old
In the Garden Room	10:00 to 12:00	Free time	Relatives and
Coffee and cookies	7:30 p. m	Barbecue 6:00 p m.	friends
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	Garden Room	Jess & Joan Wintermute's	

## Remember this is 2001. Have you paid your dues?

Send \$ 10 for the year 2001 dues to: Make check to Windemuth Family Organization

Gene Dennis

9095 S. Saginaw #12

Grand Blanc, MI 48493

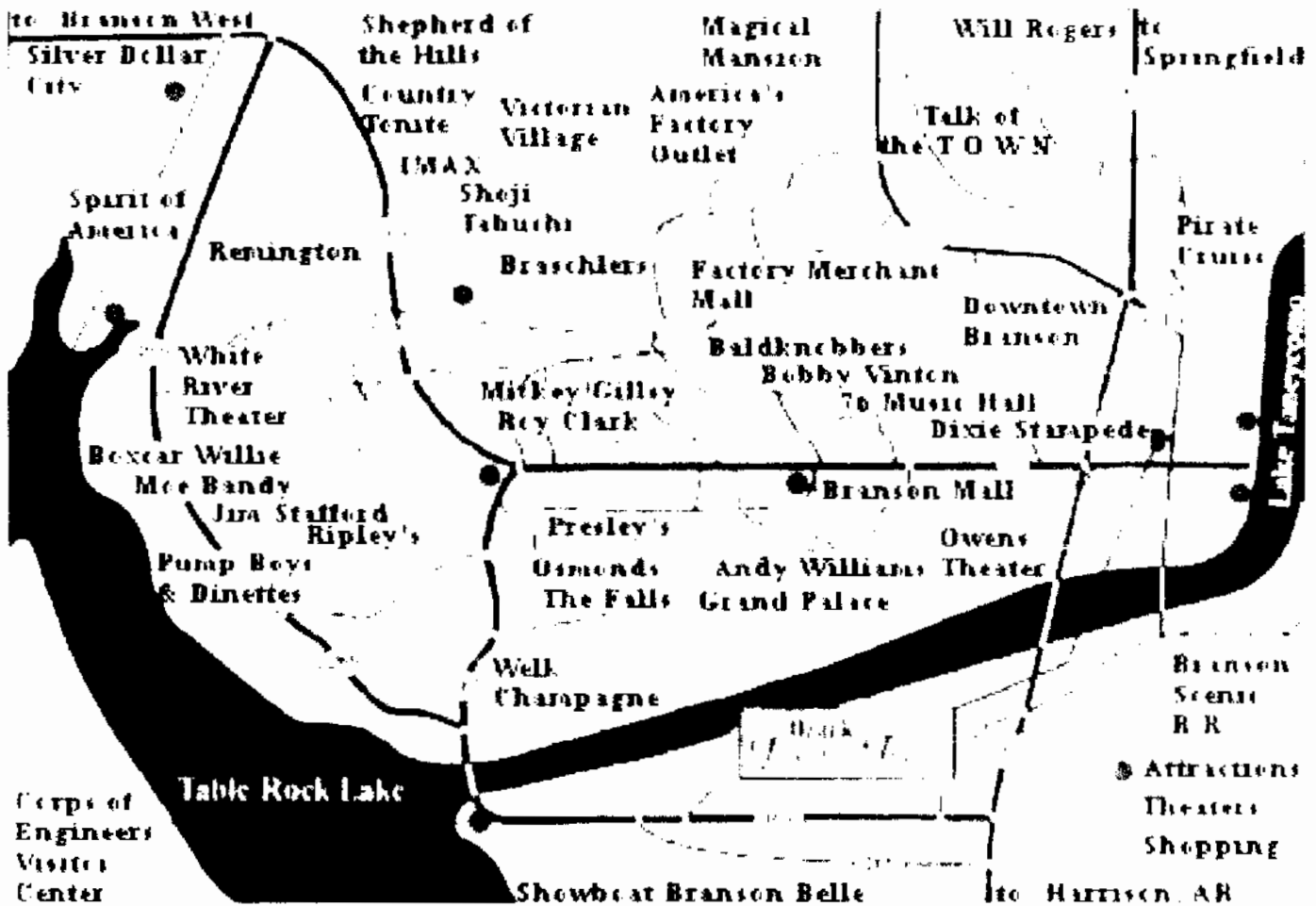
Name .....

Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip .....

Phone .....

# Map of Branson



**Branson Map**

## Thanks

### Adding a little humor

Received from Roy Birnie's in Canada:  
 The Smiths were proud of their family tradition. Their ancestors had come to America on the Mayflower and the family included Senators and Wall Street Wizards. The family decided to compile a family history, a legacy for their

children and grandchildren. So the family hired a fine author to put together all their research notes, only one problem arose—how to handle Great Uncle George, who was executed in the electric chair. The author said not to worry for he could handle the story tactfully. So the book appeared

and it said.....  
 "Great Uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties, and his death came as a great shock."

Thanks to every one who sent contributions to the newsletter, as always it makes it easier.  
 Thanks to the officers and committee persons who work so hard to make our organization successful. Without all of you, this would not be a go.

# In Honor of Neal Wintermute

We were discussing a gift for Neal at the reunion in Niagara Falls and the officers came up with giving a contribution to the Sussex Historical Museum in Newton, New Jersey. This was done shortly after we all got home from the reunion. The museum is in a state of renovation and much time has passed.

I received a telephone call from the museum around February 15th. In the letter included with the check, I had asked that the contribution be used in the repair of The Stillwater Cemetery. It was decided to use these funds and others for the restoration of the cemetery. They will concentrate on the older part of the cemetery. A committee was formed, with Nan Horsefield as Chairperson to do this very thing. They are volunteers who are interested enough to take several workshops in the Art of Cemetery Restoration. They have started with the clearing of brush and trimming of trees. They will probe for sunken stones, research the free standing stones, those leaning against the wall. All stones will be

cleaned and those that need it restored. The use of prisoners in this endeavor was an interesting factor that they shared with me. The stones are washed with a 50% solutions of clorax and water, let stand for, I think he said 24 hours, and then washed off. He said the stones are cleaned of mildew, growth and etc. and are much whiter.

Neal, I hope this is pleasing to you. You spent 16 years as President of the Windemuth Family Organizaion, doing a fine job. We all thank you very much.

Neal continues to serve as Cemetery Chairperson. You can see this contribution is in the area he continues to work in for our organization.

Many of you know, either from information from the Heritage or from visiting this cemetery that the old part is where John George's and Maria Bernjardten Windemuth stones are. The Historical society call these headstones their flagships.

There are many other Wintermutes and Snover's buried in this cemetery. It is interesting that genealogists all take pride in cemeteries, whether we have relatives there or not. They are one of the books of life where our research takes place. Jim and I visited there after the reunion and I spent two days looking, writing, taking pictures.

We visited the muscum in Newton, where The Pine Blanket Chest, Original Deed Box, and documentation stating that it was brought over by the Wintermute family in 1736, Mahogany O.G. Mirror, Large Flex Wheel, and Pennsylvania School Masters Desk was donated by Susan Meier.

Hope of us can visit the are and see the renovations to the Museum and the Cemetery. When you visit be sure to go to Stillwater and see the town which has not changed much in the last 100 years. There are two homes which were orginally built by Wintermutes.

Contribution  
in  
Honor  
Of  
Neal  
Wintermute

## Things We Can Learn From Dogs

Contributed by Norman Wintemute

1. Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
2. Allow the experience of fresh air and wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
3. When love ones come home, always run to greet them.
4. When its in your best interest, practice obedience.
5. Let others know when they have invaded your territory.
6. Take naps and stretch before rising.
7. Run, romp and play daily.
8. Feast with gusto and enthusiasm.
9. Be loyal
10. Never pretend to be something you are not.
11. If what you want is buried, dig until you find it.
12. When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close, and nuzzle them.
13. Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
14. Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
15. On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a shade tree.
16. When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body
17. No matter how often you are scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing or pout, run right back and make friends.

# Ozarks Area History

(Condensed from the files of the Taney County Times)

Branson has been one of the centers of development in the Ozark foothills for well over a century. Even before there was a Branson, our area was known as one of the nicest places in the country to visit. For many years, there were no music shows, lakes, theme parks, or museums to attract guests. Instead, what originally brought acclaim to this area was nothing more than its natural beauty.

In the early 1900's what is known today as "Ozark Mountain County" was called the Upper White River Valley.

This stretch of land from Springfield south into Arkansas had gained acclaim amongst the more adventurous travelers of the day as a place of unspoiled wilderness and rejuvenation. The many freshwater springs fed rivers and creeks all through the area, and by 1904 those with the means could arrange week long guided fishing tours down 125 miles of the White river. The local railroad touted the White River Valley as "The Land of a Million Smiles," as it still lives up to today.

## The Louisiana Purchase

Missouri was admitted to the Union in 1820 but its history began before 1803 when the United States was increased

by some 1,000,000 square miles of land, more than doubling the country's size and

and known as *The Louisiana Purchase*.

To encourage population of the new expanse, the government assumed one of the greatest, most important operations of the time—surveying the entire area. In Missouri, the land was marked at each half and full mile points with "monuments" or wooden markers and from these were established the legal descriptions guaranteeing clear titles to owners of the land. The survey wasn't completed until after the Civil War.

Of vital importance to the influx of pioneers into the hill country was the signing of *The Homestead Act* which permitted heads of household to file claims on as much as 160 acres for personal use at a cost of \$14.00 filing fee. In five years, after "proving up" on their intent to clear a stated amount of land, plant a crop and build a dwelling of certain size and character, he — or she received full title to the land.

This title was protected by law against any attempt to seize the property for non-payment of debts owed by the homesteader.

## Something to Think About for the 4th of July

(Know this is early or late which ever you wish to call it)

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurist. Eleven were merchants, none were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the sea by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him and poverty was his

reward.

Vandal or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr, noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying.

Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution.

These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged.

Gene Winfield Dennis  
9095 S. Saginaw #12  
Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439

Phone: (810) 694-7735  
Email: Gdennis@universalsys.  
com.

*“Join in the Fellowship and  
Fun at the Windemuth  
Reunion in two thousand  
and one*

**HAVE YOU PAID  
YOUR DUES?**

## Wonderful Message

Contributed by Berry  
Wintermore

I've learned...that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned that having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned... that you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned... that I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned...that no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned...that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned...that we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned...that it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned...that under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.



**Boating on Lake Taneycomo**

I've learned... That the Lord didn't do it all in one day.  
What makes me think I can?

I've learned...that love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned.. That you can make someone's day by simply sending them a little note.

I've learned... that you can tell a lot about a man by how he handles these three things: a rainy day; lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.

I've learned...that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People need and love human touches—holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.